

WE ARE THE VFW AUXILIARY

Brothers and Sisters,

I believe people should join the VFW Auxiliary to continue to expand the presence of the VFW and serve this organization with dedication. If you have not taken the member obligation, I encourage you to request your Auxiliary President to have members to participate in the member obligation at your next meeting with your new candidates. The words that has always stands out to me is the Junior Vice-President: **“As a member of this Auxiliary, we shall expect you to do your share, for ours is a great work, lasting throughout life, for so long as there are veterans, so long will our work continue. To care for the members in distress and for those who depend upon them is part of the work of this organization—and when death shall lay his hand on any Post or Auxiliary member, it is our duty to see that they are buried in the proper manner and with the honor due them.”**

I need to thank each and every member who has come to the aid of a veteran, veteran family and/or a member. You are fulfilling your obligation and mission of this great organization. While many of our programs serve specific needs, Veterans & Family Support touches every life connected to our veterans, their families, caregivers, and survivors. It is a program rooted in compassion, awareness, and action. It is the core of our being.

Every day, someone faces challenges that often go unseen. From navigating VA benefits to coping with the lasting effects of service, many need not only resources, but also reassurance that they are not alone. This is where your support becomes essential. You are not just members, you are program coordinators, resource connectors, advocates, and, often, a lifeline.

Equally important is the support we provide to active military and their families. Spouses, children, and caregivers often carry unseen burdens, from frequent relocations to long separations and the emotional toll of deployment or injury. A simple act of checking in, offering a listening ear, or connecting them with support networks can have lasting impact. Never underestimate the power of personal outreach.

In recent years, the importance of mental health awareness has become increasingly clear. Many struggle silently with issues such as PTSD, depression, or anxiety. We are not expected to be clinicians but as Auxiliary members we are expected to care. Knowing the signs, encouraging open conversations, and guiding individuals toward professional help are critical steps we can all take. Creating an environment where veterans and families know we are a resource is one of the greatest gifts we can offer.

Another key component of Veterans & Family Support is collaboration. You are not alone in this work. Our Auxiliary family is over 12,000 strong, and 475,000 plus nationally. Now partnering with your VFW Post, and other community organizations strengthens your ability to serve

effectively. Whether working alongside American Legion posts, local nonprofits, or VA facilities, these partnerships expand your reach and enhance the services you can provide.

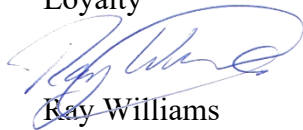
From our National President's story about starfish, make a difference, one veteran, one family, one connection at a time.

From a young age, we are all taught that calling 911 brings immediate help. We trust that when we make that call, someone will respond, whether it be medical, fire, police, or all of the above. In that moment, we are placing our faith in people we may not know, but who are ready to serve. From personal experience I can attest, talking to that 911 operator gives you confidence that there are people coming to you when you are in a time of need, feeling helpless, and alone. Think of your Auxiliary and Post as that "911" for our Veterans and their families. You are the first line of support, helping to triage needs, provide immediate assistance, and connect Veterans and families to the resources they need while a longer-term plan is put into place.

Reviewing the reports that were sent to me and looking on social media, Arizona shows our unflinching support to our active military, veterans, and their families.

Thank you for being part of this family and I ask that you to continue serving this organization as much as you can.

Loyalty



Ray Williams
2025 – 2026 VFS Chair

